SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

During the first six months of 2017, 294 aid workers were reportedly killed, injured, kidnapped or assaulted (KIK) in 120 incidents. In 2016, 547 aid workers were reportedly affected in 284 incidents. In 2015, 528 aid workers were reportedly affected in 263 incidents. This data is based on incidents identified by Insecurity Insight's monitoring of open sources and reported by Aid in Danger partner agencies using the Security in Numbers Database (SiND).

Countries with reported KIK incidents, January - June 2017 (294 aid workers reportedly affected in 36 countries)

65% of affected staff were killed, injured, kidnapped or assaulted in:
Syria (78 aid workers)
DRC (54 aid workers)
South Sudan (37 aid workers)
Nigeria (22 aid workers).

■ Over 15 aid workers reportedly affected   ■ 4 - 14 aid workers reportedly affected   ▪ Under 3 aid workers reportedly affected

This document is part of the Aid in Danger project. It is published by Insecurity Insight and funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid. Data collection is ongoing and these numbers may change as new information is made available. For more information, see aidindanger. org. The map shows reported KIK incidents identified by Insecurity Insight's monitoring of open sources and reported by Aid in Danger partner agencies using the Security in Numbers Database (SiND) between January 2015 and June 2017, as of 13 August 2017. In our coding, an aid worker is defined as an individual employed by or attached to a humanitarian, UN, international or government aid agency.
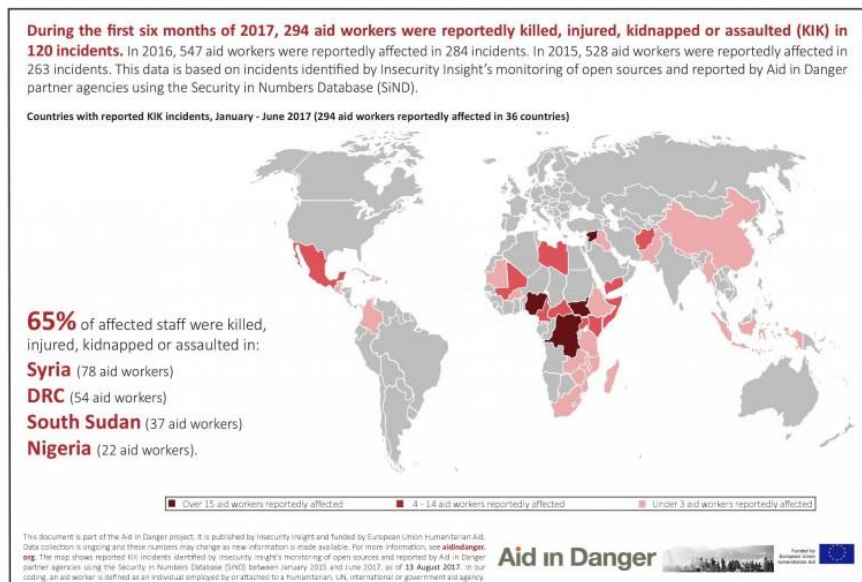
With USAID/OFDA support, Insecurity Insight's Aid in Danger project provides data on security incidents targeting humanitarian workers around the world. *Image courtesy of Insecurity Insight*

Strengthening Humanitarian Operations Through Expert Data Collection and Analysis

USAID/OFDA supports the team of experts at Insecurity Insight to collect information on and analyze the nature of civilian populations' insecurity during armed conflict, including security threats against particular groups, such as journalists and relief workers. An Insecurity Insight-supported project, Aid in Danger, focuses on disruptions to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and produces monthly reports for the humanitarian community that enable relief organizations to better plan and monitor programs in insecure environments. In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA provided more than $165,000 to Insecurity Insight through partner Save the Children/U.S.

Enhancing Risk Mitigation Practices in Insecure Locations

Delivering humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations around the world often requires relief organizations to operate in insecure environments, putting non-governmental organization (NGO) staff at risk of death, injury or kidnapping. In response, the International NGO Safety Organization (INSO) delivers critical security services for the humanitarian community. USAID/OFDA supports INSO activities in six countries with FY 2017 funding. INSO provides crisis management support, incident analysis and tracking, safety-related data and mapping, and staff orientations and training. These services help NGO staff enhance situational awareness and risk management practices, enabling organizations to make informed, evidence-based decisions related to humanitarian access.

Sector Overview

USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) staff and humanitarian partners frequently operate in countries with security challenges. To mitigate risk, USAID/OFDA enhances the safety and security of the humanitarian community through outreach and dialogue with implementing partners and the donor community. USAID/OFDA supports established networks of humanitarian security personnel, advocates for security mechanisms at the global and country levels, and strengthens policies that promote safety and security.

USAID/OFDA's Safety and Security Unit directly supports USAID/OFDA field staff by providing real-time analysis and guidance on security issues from Washington, D.C., and by deploying safety and security officers to the field. USAID/OFDA aims to enable humanitarian activities in volatile situations by increasing access while minimizing risk to staff and operations.

USAID/OFDA provided more than $1.4 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 for activities that improved operational security, facilitated security-related coordination and information management, promoted best practices, provided innovative security training to humanitarian actors, and built a better understanding of the international humanitarian security landscape.

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

In addition to supporting training for staff across the international humanitarian community, USAID/OFDA designed a Security in Humanitarian Operations (SHOP) course to increase security awareness and emergency readiness among USAID/OFDA staff. USAID/OFDA piloted the course in July 2015 and continued to support the development of the SHOP course as a key component of core staff training in FY 2017.

Participants learn to address critical safety and security issues during USAID/OFDA's SHOP course.
Photo by USAID/OFDA

Providing security training to humanitarian organizations results in safer operations by increasing staff capacity to assess threats, mitigate risk, and prepare contingency plans. With approximately $70,000 in FY 2017 funding, USAID/OFDA continued its multi-year support to the Mission Ready program through partner RedR. Launched in October 2015, Mission Ready uses video simulations to test students' security knowledge in a variety of challenging, realistic scenarios that require students to make difficult decisions under pressure. In addition to interactive simulations, the game-based learning program also provides documents and video content to help the student navigate common security dilemmas. Mission Ready is available in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. More information on Mission Ready is available at: http://www.redr.org.uk/en/Training-and-more/mission-ready.cfm.

Improving Access to Aid Through Data and Analysis

Since 2005, USAID/OFDA has supported the NGO Humanitarian Outcomes, which manages the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD), with multi-year funding to strengthen data collection and analysis. The AWSD collects and analyzes data on incidents of violence against humanitarian workers worldwide and works with public sources, relief organizations, and security entities to obtain and verify data to inform its reporting. Free and available to the public, the database enables the humanitarian community to evaluate changing security environments. The AWSD is available at: https://aidworkersecurity.org/.

Bolstering Safety and Security Within the Humanitarian Community

USAID/OFDA has supported InterAction—the largest alliance of international NGOs in the United States—since 2007 to improve the safety and security of member organizations and strengthen their ability to reach disaster-affected populations in high-risk environments. InterAction engages with NGOs, UN agencies, and other relief actors on humanitarian disasters around the world and provides key support in areas including humanitarian coordination, protection, security, and shelter and settlements. InterAction supports member organizations to develop and apply systems to protect NGO staff against security threats. In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $400,000 in security support to InterAction; USAID/OFDA contributes additional funding to support InterAction's humanitarian coordination, outreach, and policy development activities through a global program.

Supporting the European Interagency Security Forum

Since 2010, USAID/OFDA has supported the European Interagency Security Forum (EISF), a network of security managers from more than 50 European-based NGOs, to enhance the safety and security of relief workers operating in increasingly complex and volatile environments. EISF facilitates increased and sustainable access to disaster-affected populations around the world by coordinating with fellow agencies on safety and security issues and strengthening security risk-management approaches. EISF also produces original research and conducts capacity-building workshops, biannual forums, and knowledge-sharing events. In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA provided approximately $252,000 to EISF through partner Christian Aid.